

Fund is essential to the health and well-being of millions of women around the world. Women are dying, and the U.S. has turned its back on them.

I offered an amendment that would have ensured that the money in this bill will go to UNFPA and go to help young women and girls who are suffering from obstetric fistula, a terrible condition that occurs during prolonged labor and leaves the women leaking urine for life.

Unfortunately, on a party line vote, the Committee on Rules voted not to protect my amendment.

I assure my colleagues that I have made every effort to compromise on this issue and to break this logjam.

In April of this year, I wrote a letter to the President, signed by many of my colleagues, asking him to put aside our differences and reach a compromise that would help millions of women and girls around the world by funding UNFPA's work on obstetric fistula. Sadly, I received a response ignoring the facts.

Mr. Speaker, women are dying around the world, and this body can do something about it. It is time that we did.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), my chairman, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our ranking member, for the fine job they have done on this bill. It is not a perfect bill, but it is a bill that we can live with and work for. There is much distress around the world, and this bill begins to address some of that.

I, too, am a little upset about a part of the rule that did not allow for some very serious debate, as well as some help, for the children and the women who live around this world who need attention that this bill, unfortunately, because of our limited means, is unable to address.

I do commend the rule for continuing the process and that we fund Haiti and begin to help that Western hemisphere's poorest country to begin to get back to normal.

Also, the Sudan, as my colleagues know now, in the Darfur region of the Sudan, genocide is taking place, and this bill begins to address that, but I wish and hope that we will withhold our money to Sudan until they, the leadership in Khartoum, addresses the Darfur problem. It is unfortunate, and I hope that we move forward in that regard.

HIV/AIDS is a pandemic in the world. In just completing the World Conference in Thailand, we heard many, many stories about it and what is happening in the world. Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, India, it is a pandemic that must be addressed. This bill offers \$2.5 billion for that, the largest we have ever appropriated. We wish we could do more. It is unfortunate that

one of the amendments offering \$800 million more is not going to be able to be offered today, but overall, it is a good bill, not a perfect bill. We must do more to help our neighbors around the world.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member for their support and leadership in ensuring funding for Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), my co-chair of the Armenia Caucus, for all that he did in the subcommittee.

Through their support, \$65 million was allocated to Armenia in economic assistance, and an additional \$5 million was allocated in military assistance and \$5 million was secured for assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. I am pleased with these levels of aid, and I would like to reiterate my steadfast support for maintaining these levels as we go to conference.

I am particularly pleased with the fact that parity was restored in the levels of military aid given to Azerbaijan and Armenia. When the Bush administration's budget was released, I was quite troubled that the FMF request for Azerbaijan was four times as high as the request for Armenia. This imbalance simply could not be allowed. When the President waived section 907 of the Freedom Support Act in the aftermath of 9/11, a commitment was made by the Bush administration of parity in any military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Because Azerbaijan continues to blockade Armenia and also has threatened Armenia militarily, it is more important than ever to maintain parity in military aid between the two Nations.

Additionally, it is essential that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh receive the aid and assistance that they need.

I support the language directing the USAID to spend \$5 million in fiscal year 2005 for programs in Nagorno-Karabakh. This support is in our country's interests and will help alleviate the conditions of the people there.

Lastly, I would like to thank again the subcommittee for maintaining a high level of economic assistance to Armenia in order for the country to overcome the dual blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey, which continues to impede Armenia's economic well-being. Despite the dual blockades by Azerbaijan and Turkey, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms, which have met with considerable success. While Armenia continues to make important reforms, as long as Armenia suffers from blockades on its east and west borders, continued and robust U.S. assistance is necessary to help minimize their impact.

I want to thank the subcommittee again.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would advise the gentleman from Florida that we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time and urge adoption of the rule.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank all of our colleagues who have come to the floor to debate this important rule. This measure before us that we bring to the floor is extraordinarily important and should be supported by the overwhelming majority of our colleagues today.

I particularly am proud of the leadership that the President has provided and really the congressional leadership has also joined in to create an unprecedented assistance program to fight HIV/AIDS in the world. I think we all have to be very proud of that, and it is a very significant part of the legislation that we bring forward with this rule today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules postponed yesterday in the following order:

H. Res. 615, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 713, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Con. Res. 462, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF FULL MEMBERSHIP OF ISRAEL IN THE WEOP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 615, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 615, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 377]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie
Ackerman

Aderholt
Akin

Alexander
Allen